

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Website: www.arubatoday.com Thursday, March 19, 2009

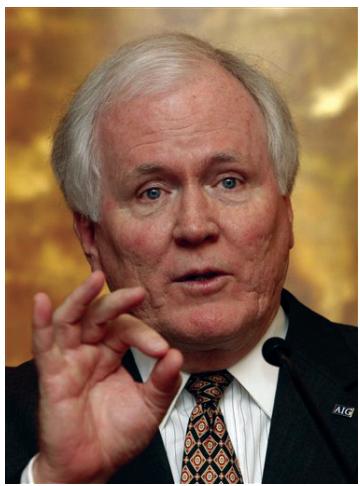


Price of a barrel
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today:

US\$ 48.14

INSIDE TODAY
U.S. NEWS

Aint I Greedy

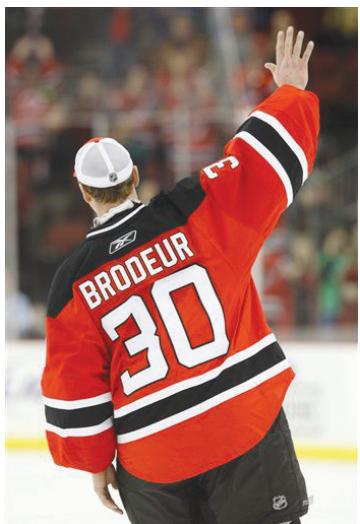


In a Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008 file photo, Edward Liddy, chairman and chief executive officer of American International Group Inc., (AIG), speaks in Hong Kong. Liddy goes to Capitol Hill this morning, March 18, 2009, where he'll reluctantly defend millions of dollars' worth of bonuses doled out to employees despite the company's need for a \$170 billion government bailout.

See INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SPORTS NEWS

MIGHTY MARTIN



New Jersey Devils goalie Martin Brodeur acknowledges cheers from fans after recording his 552nd career win, a 3-2 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks in an NHL hockey game Tuesday, March 17, 2009, in Newark, N.J.

See Sports Today

La Cabana Celebrates Flag & Anthem Day



EAGLE BEACH – La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club associate-cafeteria, the Chit-Chat café, was decorated in the colors of the Aruban flag

in honor of the 18th of March, and the food served that day was purely Aruban from fish soup and funchi to keri-keri over Creole rice with a side



of beet & potato salad. And the talented musicians were all resort associates reveling extra special hidden talents. General Manager Joe Najjar was even seen doing a formal Aruban waltz with one of the ladies in local costume, before settling down for lunch with the hard working and

creative members of the social committee in charge of staff celebrations at the resort. La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club hosts a special themed lunch every month which is much-anticipated and much enjoyed, by members of management and the associates. □



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Read RUBA TODAY every day

Visitors in love with Salt & Pepper Tapas Bar & Restaurant



PALM BEACH - Bill & Sarah Finch together with Jerry & Shery Zeplin love Salt & Pepper. "We have been coming to the Island for 20 years and began coming to Salt & Pepper when it opened 10 years ago. The enjoyment and food here have brought us back 3 times each year we come.

We especially enjoy the staff and their excellent service. They are busy every night and running

around, but they still find their time to have a little chat and make sure everything is ok. Hopefully we will be continuing our yearly visits and will certainly be back to Salt & Pepper."

Salt & Pepper is located at Arawak Gardens, Palm Beach. In front of Occidental Grand. Opens at 8 am for breakfast, lunch and dinner □

Aruba TODAY

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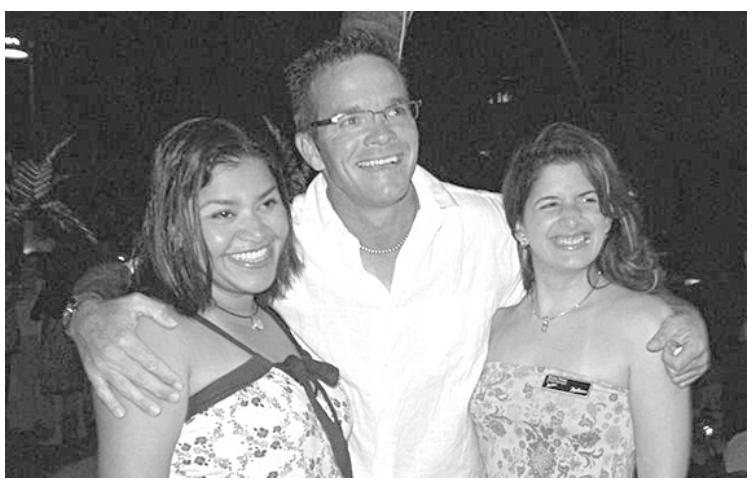


Radisson Hosts Barefoot Party



PALM BEACH — The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa gave a stylish barefoot party, toes in the sands, to its Latin America vacation wholesalers. The private thank-you dinner featured a lovely tropical buffet, free flowing libations and live jazzy music.

Executive Chef Hector Espinoza created a seafood display chased by his signature Creole salads and main courses with a fun assortment of tapas' desserts, topped with fresh fruit, as a sweet ending. A number of resort executives were on hand to mingle with the guests and express their gratitude for supporting the Grande Dame so well in the Latin market, among them Francis Purvey, Lili Polsbroek, Mylene Marques and Vicky Peres all with the resort's sales and marketing department. □



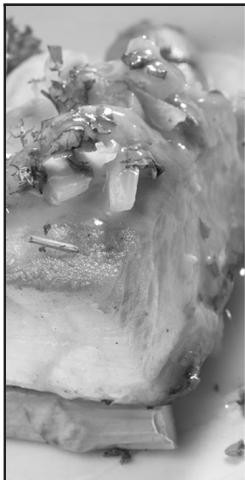
Suraj Ramdas & Judith Garcia de la Cruz are wed



ORANJESTAD – Lovebirds Suraj and Judith tied the knot at an informal ceremony at the island's civil registry recently. The new husband and wife, from the island of St Martin asked the groom's sister and brother in law, Sarita & Josh, well-known as the owners of Gemstones International in Aruba, to serve as witnesses as they sealed their love with wedding vows and the exchange of rings. Later in the evening the wedding party enjoyed dinner at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House starting with a toast of Veuve Clicquot champagne followed by a la carte, open bar, and a fantastic wedding cake for dessert. Francois Maduro, in charge of the restaurants' promotion took personal care of his guests, making sure the service and the food were impeccable.

After dinner, the closely knit gathering of family members and friends witnessed the Cuban band serenade the fresh couple at the Crystal lounge. Pictured here, unforgettable moments at Renaissance Aruba Resort. □





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'Ban Uni Man pa Cria Nos Muchanan'

A foundation that deserves attention and assistance



NOORD - During the upcoming charity Papiamento Restaurant/Wente Vineyards Golf Tournament on April 4, the foundation Ban Uni Man pa Cria Nos Muchanan has been elected as the tournament's 2009 charity of choice. With the Arion Wine Company, representative of Wente Vineyards wines as the organizer, the event is more than just a fun happening for golfers. With the money it generates a lot of good can be done. In this case the foundation Ban Uni Man pa Cria Nos Muchanan is a worthy cause and the Arion Wine Company hopes that many golfers and others will be very generous.

'Let's join hands to feed our children', that is the translation of 'Ban Uni Man pa Cria Nos Muchanan': a foundation, whose prime objective it is to provide breakfast for children unable to provide for themselves.

There are quite a number of children on Aruba who go to school on an empty stomach. Hungry children do not function well and they

cannot focus on the tasks that they should perform. As the number of children who need food is growing, so is the need for money of foundation.

How does the foundation work? School teachers or heads of schools identify the children who go to school without breakfast, and they contact the foundation which in turn provides a daily breakfast, consisting of a sandwich and a beverage for these hungry children. Volunteers help and a network has been set up to for distribution. However, the need is growing, for volunteers as well as for money and food.

President of the foundation is John Fun, who is assisted by Felicia Halman (secretary) and Hubert Croes (treasurer). The Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital, where Mr. Fun works, helps out and three volunteers make the sandwiches on a daily basis. "We buy the bread and a chauffeur takes it to the various schools, where the sandwiches are distributed," tells Mr. Fun, who is clearly worried about the bills that keep coming in.



The foundation started in 2001, with 138 children at 9 schools. In November 2005 this number had grown to 534 children at 31 schools. At present there are 580 children enrolled in the program and there are still more children who need something to eat at the start of their day. "We provide a sandwich with juice or milk," tells Mr. Fun.

The upcoming Papiamento Restaurant/Wente Vineyards Golf Tournament will hopefully generate a lot of sponsors and donations for Ban Uni Man pa Cria Nos Muchanan. The fundraising event is organized at the Tierra del Sol Golfcourse by the Arion Wine Company; it is an annual happening with companies sponsoring one of the eighteen holes. Contributing sponsors are of the 2009 event are AIB Bank, Coldwell Banker, Deloitte, Dufry Aruba,



Fantastic Gardens, Freeway, Hugo Boss, Nagico Insurance Aruba, Ocean Air Express Aruba, Optica Oduber & Kan, Taste of Belgium, Digicel, Valero, Vertegenwoording van Nederland in Oranjestad, Willy's Pool Service, Zen Design and Fuji Water. For those who are no golfers, please also consider becoming a sponsor: for just AWG. 25,- a month a child is fed. The foundation would be much helped by your standing order (RBTT 43.65.011 or

CMB 22589501). If you wish to know more, please call 874300 ext. 338/339. Let's get together and help out! Photos show Mr. John Fun with Arion Wine Company's Martrude Rutgers and Govert van der Hout, Mr. Fun behind his desk, Mr. Eric Wente of Wente Vineyards during his speech at the 2008 Golf Tournament and participants Stephan van der Varst and William van Ramshorst eagerly awaiting the shotgun start of the event. □

Thursday, March 19, 2009 **LOCAL**

Maria Dominguez celebrates Birthday at Nobushi



PASEO HERENCIA —
Nobushi Restaurant's General
Manager Maria Dominguez
celebrated her birthday in
style at the restaurant together
with the staff, good friends



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NBO hosts post Carnival celebration dinner



PALM BEACH — One of Aruba's most love bands, NBO, celebrated the conclusion of a successful Carnival season at Amazonia Churrascaria. Band members gave gratitude to each other for the support and the energy that flowed through their speakers and poured into the street infecting the masses in Carnival fever, along the parade routes in the month of February.

The carvers and servers of Amazonia Churrascaria fed the band well, making up for all the lost calories use up on making great music. □



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For more information call 583 6000 ext. 6115 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357

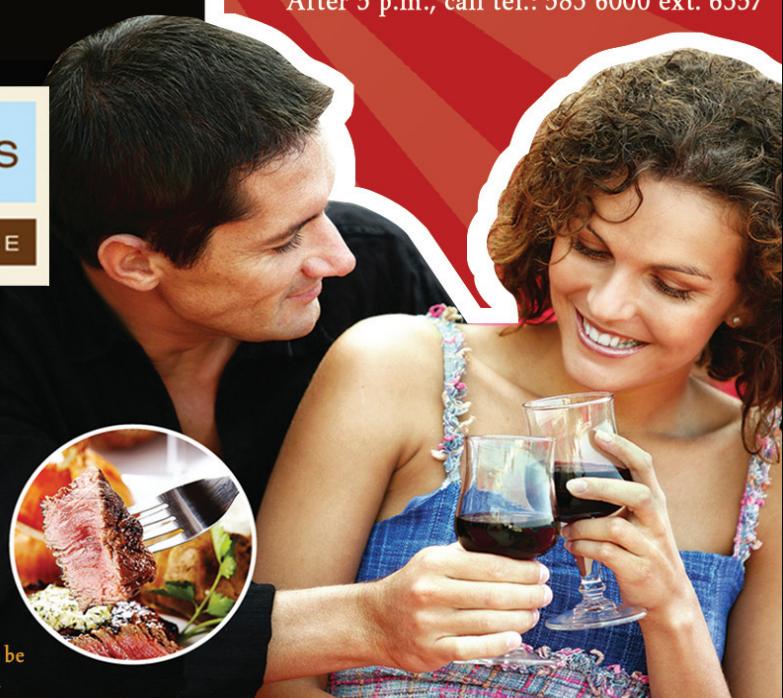
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This special is NOT valid in combination with any other specials and cannot be purchased at any other vendor than the Box Office of the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino.





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Friday Flamenco Fiesta; Well Worth The Short Trip Downtown Paella & Flamenco at Casa Tua Downtown on Friday

DOWNTOWN - Casa Tua draws a crowd of local and not-so-local folks who can't seem to get enough of the pizza and the place. There's almost always a wait here, even if you have reservations, so place yourself at the bar with the smell of brick oven pizzas wafting to other tables, and knowing that at some point, that bliss will be yours.

Alfrescodining is designed with a chicy rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

With a Sicilian-style thin crust, dripping with cheese and fresh-made tomato sauce, this pizza comes with a variety of toppings in the meat and veggie categories. Pasta dishes, full Italian meals like Lasagne and veal Osso Buco, fresh salads and rich desserts are also on the menu.



For more information
or reservations call
Palm Beach: 586 8470
Downtown: 588 5695
Or ask your concierge.



Casa Tua's famous secret thin crust recipe was handed down by an Italian chef, known locally as "the pizza master", in the French student city of Montpellier in 1969. This recipe has been perfected over the years to such a point where Casa Tua is known on the island these days for the best pizza. Period.

Casa Tua Palm Beach
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Moby Dick's weekly lunch specials include the Famed Fish & Chips (Beer battered grouper fillet with malt vinegar & chips for only \$11.95.)

The Amazing Angus Wrap and other Memorable Sandwiches are absolutely delicious just as their dearly loved desserts. The inconceivable cocktails are even more reasons to visit this great place.

A must visit lunch appointment for great value, amazing décor, picture perfect outdoor terrace, across the street from the High-Rise hotels at the popular Paseo Herencia Mall.

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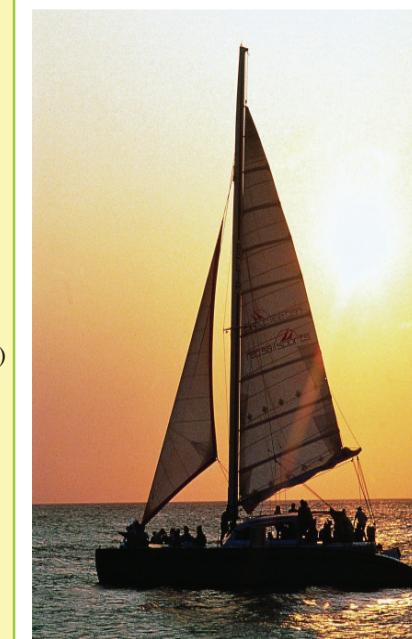
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Fairy Tale Wedding at the Divi Phoenix Resort

Jamie Buffington & Jeff Smrz exchange rings & vows



PALM BEACH – On Friday the 13th, Jamie Buffington and Jeff Smrz pledged their love to one another on the

beach at the Divi Phoenix Resort just before sunset. Rev. Robert Gibson officiated the romantic ceremony on the beach for Jamie and Jeff in front of nearly 2 dozen family members and friends who flew down to witness the marriage.

Indira Maduro of Aruba Fairy Tales orchestrated the beautiful beach blessing together with her staff. After the ceremony, the guests enjoyed a champagne toast and a gourmet meal with their toes in the sand prepared by The Sunset Bistro. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



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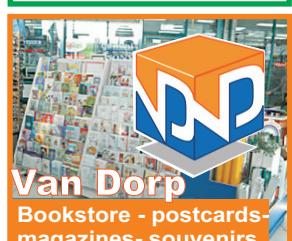
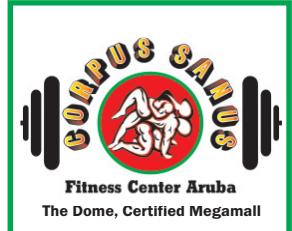


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Last day to register is March 23rd!

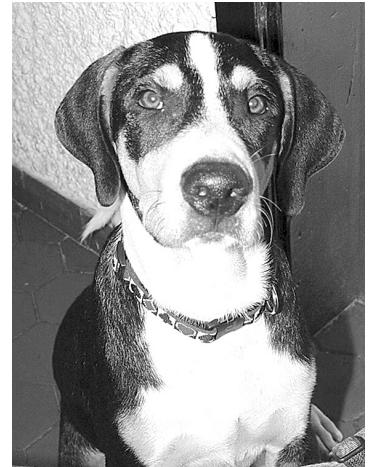
Bestial Fun Run & Dogwalk is approaching



ORANJESTAD -- Shohaira Barnes da Silva of Bestial TV, www.bestialtv.com, is happy to share that over 100 participants answered the call of the wild, and registered to participate in the Bestial Fun Run & Dogwalk, March 29th, 5 p.m..

While dog owners are invited to bring along their best four-legged friends, dogless runners and walkers are also welcome.

The registration for the Bestial Fun Run & Dogwalk is open at Awg 10 per adult and Awg 5 per child under 12, at Magic 96.5 FM and at 2BFitStudio, adjacent to



the Eagle Bowling Palace. Dogs' participation is free of charge.

The following rules apply to the Fun Run Dogwalk

1. Participation is restricted to no more than 2 dogs per person.
2. Dogs must be leashed at all time.
3. The organization recommends practicing running and walking with your leashed dog prior to the event.

The Bestial Fun Run & Dogwalk will start at EPB Hato and proceed to the Tanki Flip roundabout. There will be a water stop at Wema Ponton. The route will continue to the roundabout of Santa Helena, then pass by the Bienvenue boutique and back to Hato EPB, for a total of 5 Km.

Sponsors Purina Dog Food and Frisian Flag promise to supply special tee-shirts and doggie bags and the Monster Team, will provide all adults with a little extra

boost of Monster Energy drink.

Should you have more questions kindly consult the Bestialtv.com website. The crew of Bestialtv.com will be on hand at Hato EPB, from 4 p.m on race day March 29th.

Fresh off the press: Boely the Rottweiler will be participating with the Uchtmann family, from Alto Vista. Boely will be accompanied by his puppies with wife Kara, as well as the puppies that he sired with his girlfriends, Daisy and Cosy. Bingo restaurant is providing the Boely van de Gerichtburg Hoeve



caravan with tee shirts, and you may join by calling tel.: #568-3532. Shohaira Barnes da Silva, host of the popular Bestialtv show, is the creative mind behind the fun, one of a kind event, dedicated to her athletic uncle Jose da Silva. □



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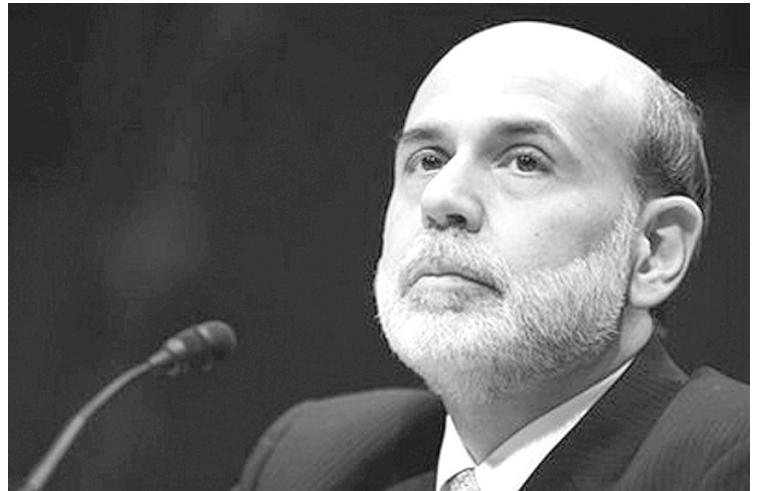
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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Fed to buy up to \$300B long-term Treasury bonds



In this March 3, 2009 file photo, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, before the Senate Budget Committee. America's recession 'probably' will end this year if the government succeeds in bolstering the banking system, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Sunday March 15, 2009 in a rare television interview on CBS' '60 Minutes.'

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve announced Wednesday it will spend up to \$300 billion over the next six months to buy long-term government bonds, a new step aimed at lifting the country out of recession by lowering rates on mortgages and other consumer debt.

At the same time, the Fed left a key short-term bank lending rate at a record low of between zero and 0.25 percent. Economists predict the Fed will hold the rate in that zone for the rest of this year and for most — if not all — of next year.

Fed purchases should boost Treasury prices and drive down their rates. That would ripple through and lower rates on other kinds of debt. The last time the Fed set out to influence long-term interest rates was during the 1960s.

The Fed also said it will buy more mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to help that battered market. The central bank will buy an additional \$750 billion, bringing its total purchases of these securities to \$1.25 trillion. It also will boost its purchase of Fannie and

Freddie debt to \$200 billion. "This is not only going to keep mortgage rates low for a long period of time," said Greg McBride, a senior financial analyst at Bankrate.com. "The mere announcement may produce a honeymoon effect and bring mortgage rates down to even lower levels in the coming days."

In addition, the Fed said a \$1 trillion program to jump-start consumer and small business lending could be expanded to include other financial assets. The program — which is rolling out this week — currently is focused on spurring lending for autos, education, credit cards and loans for business equipment. The government already has announced an expansion to include commercial real-estate assets. Any broadening of the program would be beyond that area.

The Fed's action is keeping Wall Street's big rally alive. After being down earlier in the day, the Dow Jones industrial average added about 30 points in afternoon trading, and broader indicators also rose.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues are taking the new steps as the economy sinks deeper into recession. Since the Fed last met in

late January, "the economy continues to contract," the policymakers observed.

"Job losses, declining equity and housing wealth and tight credit conditions have weighed on consumer sentiment and spending," they said.

Businesses, meanwhile, are facing weaker sales prospects and credit troubles have them cutting inventories. Problems overseas have crimped demand for U.S. exports, dealing domestic companies another blow, the Fed said.

Across the Atlantic, the Bank of England last week began buying government bonds from financial institutions as it turned to other ways to help revive Britain's moribund economy. The Bank of

England, like the Fed, already had lowered its key interest rate to a record low of 0.5 percent.

Finance leaders from top economies have discussed coordinating actions from their governments and central banks to provide a more potent punch against the global financial crisis.

Still, the Fed hoped its actions, the government's banking rescue effort, and President Barack Obama's \$787 billion stimulus of increased government spending and tax cuts eventually will help revive the economy.

"Although the near-term economic outlook is weak, the committee anticipates that policy actions will

contribute to a gradual resumption of sustainable economic growth," the Fed said.

Obama has urged Americans to be patient, saying it will take time for his revival programs to work.

Bernanke has repeatedly said that stabilizing the nation's financial system is key to turning around the economy. If that can be done, then the recession might end this year, setting the stage for a recovery next year, he said. But even in this best-case scenario, the nation's unemployment rate — now at quarter-century peak of 8.1 percent — will keep climbing. Some economists think it will hit 10 percent by the end of this year. □

Stocks jump after Fed says it will buy Treasurys

By TIM PARADIS and MADLEN READ,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The Federal Reserve kept Wall Street's big rally alive — and gave the Treasury market a huge boost as well.

Both markets surged Wednesday after the Fed said it would pump more than \$1 trillion into the economy to help revive the housing market. The plan includes buying up to \$300 billion of long-term government bonds during the next six months.

Investors expect the move to drive down borrowing costs for everything from mortgages to credit cards. The Dow Jones industrial average reversed early losses to end up 91 points and the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note plunged, indicating strong demand for the note.

The dollar fell as investors worried the government's actions would eventually fan inflation. The Fed's move, analysts said, is likely to produce an immediate drop in mortgage rates, of 0.25 to 0.5 percent percentage points. The central bank also made clear it would be able to purchase the majority of new mortgage-backed securities for at least the rest of the year, possibly longer.

That's great news for those borrowers with good incomes and healthy credit scores who are able to qualify for a loan. But dramatically tighter lending standards have made it tough for many borrowers to qualify.

Still, it was a plus for the housing industry, which many analysts believe must recover in order for the overall economy to prosper

again. Homebuilder and financial company stocks shot higher on the news, which came a day after the Commerce Department reported better-than-expected housing start numbers for February.

The sheer magnitude of the Fed's proposal "indicates they have a lot of weapons still in the arsenal," said Bruce McCain, chief investment strategist at Key Private Bank in Cleveland.

The Fed said it would build on a plan to buy mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. It also will buy an additional \$750 billion, bringing its total purchases of these securities to \$1.25 trillion. It also will boost its purchase of Fannie and Freddie debt to \$200 billion.

The Fed's announcement accompanied its decision to keep interest rates at historically low levels. Chairman Ben Bernanke has said in recent weeks that the recession could end this year if the credit and financial markets can be stabilized. Bernanke and other officials have said they would deploy whatever tools necessary to revive the economy.

"They are certainly, assertively doing everything they can to intervene," said David Darst, chief investment strategist of Morgan Stanley's Global Wealth Management Group. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 90.88, or 1.2 percent, to 7,486.58.

Broader stock indicators also jumped. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 16.23, or 2.1 percent, to 794.35, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 29.11, or 2 percent, to 1,491.22. □

As newlyweds, Phyllis and I moved into a new apartment without the usual domestic objects. Neighbors, having purchased a new vacuum cleaner, donated their aged, "it does not work very well anymore" vacuum cleaner. Three points motivated me to accept this gift. One, wanting to get off on the right foot, I did not want to seem ungracious to new neighbors. Two, we did not have a vacuum, so one, even "working well anymore" was better than doing it the "elbow grease" way. And finally, as my buddy Bob reminds me, I hate throwing anything away; wanting instead to repair everything. I grew up in a car dealership; where to repair is noble. Soon, the aged vacuum cleaner lay in pieces in the corner of our sparsely furnished living room. Slowly, lint, hair and dust were removed from electrical contacts, hearing shafts, and rotors. A family tradition was born. If it doesn't work, clean it. Within days we had a vacuum cleaner that had regained its youthful vigor.

Amazing how everything works better when cleaned. I am not even saying repaired, just cleaned! The same can be said about your body. We clean our clothes, our skin, our houses, our cars, our floors, but what about our insides? We can clean our large intestines with a method called colon hydrotherapy. Since we introduced this procedure in Aruba at Viana Natural Healing Center we have seen small miracles take place.

Historically, colon hydrotherapy was a popular form of treatment among physicians in the 1930's and 40's and has been experiencing reappearance among natural physicians. "Colon lavage" was first recorded 1500 B.C.,

Cleanliness is next to

in the Ebers Papyrus, which dealt with ancient medical practices. These enemas were described as the infusion of aqueous substances into the large intestine through the anus. Hippocrates, the "father" of allopathic medicine in the fourth and fifth Century B.C. recorded using enemas as a therapy for the reduction of fevers. In the second Century A.D., Galen, one of my heroes, also recognized and was an advocate of the use of enemas while strongly criticizing his contemporaries for their ignorance, greed, and superficial knowledge of the art of medicine. Also, Pare, the French surgeon, born in Laval, whose great practical skills and humaneness distinguished him from his contemporaries, in 1600 A.D., offered the first distinction between colon irrigation and the popular enema therapy of that age. We are talking about all the true medical greats here.

So what is it? Colon hydrotherapy is an extended and more complete form of an enema. The treatment is designed to cleanse above the rectum to the cecum. The cecum is the first part of the large intestine, located on the lower right side of the abdomen and having a worm-shaped tube branching off called the appendix. Colon hydrotherapy involves the gentle infusion of warm filtered water into the rectum by the therapist or Natural Physician, using no chemicals or drugs. It is the natural solution to conditions, which interfere with the normal functions of the colon. The individual lies on his back, and water is mechanically infused into and out of the intestine without any assistance on the

part of the patient. The out flowing water removes excess gas, mucus, infectious material and feces.

So why should a person consider colonic? An unclean, weak and poorly functioning colon is a breeding ground for disease, sickness and death. Natural Physicians will tell you that "old age starts in the colon". Serious health problems can develop if the colon is not properly cared for, and based on health statistics; colon health care in developed countries has been woefully neglected.

In the United States alone, over 400 million dollars is spent annually on laxatives. Laxatives act as chemical irritants and stimulate the muscular walls of the colon to abnormally contract to expel the irritating substances. It is very easy to become dependent upon these drugs. The oral route of administration is the least optimal method of evacuation of the large intestine. Very important digestive processes occurring higher up in the alimentary tract (stomach and small intestine) are interfered with. Most laxatives dehydrate or force the body to lose important water. Colon hydrotherapy alternately fills and empties the colon and improves the hydration status of the patient. A very good thing, since most people's bodies are severely lacking water. Additional health statistics tell us that this year an estimated 130,000 new cases of colon and rectal cancer will be diagnosed in the United States, making it the fourth most common form of cancer among Americans.

Good colon health is as much a function of the quality of food, based on our blood type,

we eat, as it is our elimination status. The Standard American/Aruban Diet (SAD) comprised of refined, processed foods, high in saturated fats, sugar, flour, preservatives and low in fiber, inevitably causes problems for the colon. Over time, the colon loses the ability to process vital nutrients, absorb water and to eliminate fecal matter from the body, a condition commonly known as "constipation", making bowel movements infrequent, and difficult.

With constipation comes toxicity. Toxins present in the unhealthy colon can be transported into the circulatory system and soon the body may be unable to properly metabolize food and fat, or to provide vital energy for living! Colon toxicity can be the underlying cause of many commonly reported health problems and may indicate the need for colon hydrotherapy. Symptoms include: Constipation, Backaches, Diarrhea, Skin Problems, Difficult Weight Loss, Insomnia, Hypertension, Headaches, Arthritis, Bad Breath/Halitosis, Asthma, Allergies and this list could go on.

Intestinal cleansing is a therapeutic procedure, which addresses the cause or source of many of your medical problem. Other measures, especially allopathic drugs, which treat only the symptoms, will provide only temporary relief. Colon hydrotherapy could clean and dilute the toxin load in the large intestine, resulting in a reduced burden on the liver, allowing the eliminative organs to function optimally. Colon hydrotherapy could also prevent stagnation and minimize the exposure of carcinogenic agents to the colon wall.

The above combined effect



may serve to rejuvenate the immunological system and truly be a pathway to vibrant health!

Get the point! Your colon, together with your lungs, skin and kidneys, are designed to keep you healthy by accomplishing the essential task of the elimination of toxins in the intestines, blood and lymph systems. You know the saying says "Cleanliness is next to Godliness". Now you know why.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA

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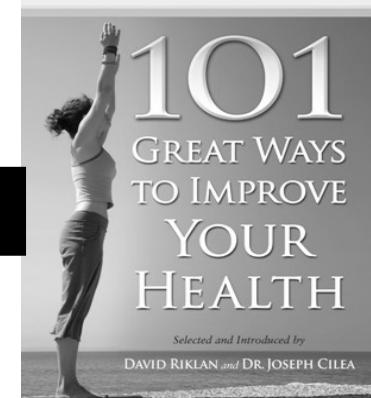
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Publisher

John Chemaly Sr.

Managing Director

John A. Chemaly Jr.

General Manager

Grace Mary Maduro

Caribbean Speed
Printing N.V.
Westraat # 22
Oranjestad, Aruba
Tel:(297) 582-7800
Fax: (297) 582-7044

www.arubatoday.comE-mail news@arubatoday.com**Editor-in-Chief**

Julia C. Renfro

Contributing EditorsAngela Muzenhofer
Jan Falcone**International Editor**

Richard Brooks

Sales TeamElly Erasmus
Mareijke Croes
Wendy Kelkboom**Page Designer**

Dina Maria

Advertising CoordinatorSandra Loefstop-Duarte
aviso@bondia.com
bondia.aruba@gmail.com

Moral outrage in the age of AIG

By the Monitor's Editorial Board

Ever peel back an onion to find it rotten at the core? Both the protecting outer layers and the rot are offenders. For Americans, that is much the same experience as they learn more about AIG. Once the largest risk-taker in US home prices, AIG is now Wall Street's largest recipient of bailout money — and it just paid bonuses to its most culpable workers.

Congress plans a public flogging Wednesday of Edward Liddy, CEO of American International Group. It may not matter that he took the job only last fall at the government's request to prevent a corporate collapse that, at the time, Congress and others thought would bring down the financial system.

At the least, this moral venting might help reveal the truth behind AIG's risky actions and the regulators who were supposedly watching the exotic insurance schemes that AIG sold to expand the sale of mortgage-backed securities. But such hearings should also help reset the moral bearings of all those who ate of the forbidden fruit that was the nationwide betting on an ever-rising housing market and on the government enablers for those bets.

Almost every moral dilemma in this economic crisis is wrapped up in the still-unpeeling story of AIG. Yet Americans simply want someone to blame — someone to fall on their sword — for having caused all the financial excess, the home foreclosures, the shrunken nest eggs, and now rising unemployment.

So when it came out this week that AIG traders and executives who were at the center of the trading in mortgages received bonuses, well, now that's an easy target.

Never mind that the bonuses were negotiated long before AIG became 80 percent owned by the Federal Reserve and US Treasury and are legally binding contracts.

Never mind that the bonuses were promised in early 2008 to keep those same risk-takers within AIG's tent to fix the mess and not go to competitors to help bet against AIG's demise — thus reducing the chance of taxpayers getting their money back. And never mind that Presidents Bush and Obama both gave bailouts to AIG without first demanding some way to "claw back" some of those bonuses.

AIG is a lightning rod for outrage simply because it was the biggest careless player in a complex system set up in part by Congress to push cheap mortgages on people who couldn't afford them or who could easily lie about their income.

Yes, anger is understandable for AIG's "unconscionable bets," as Fed chief Ben Bernanke calls them. And Mr. Obama needs to appear angry to maintain political capital for tougher financial regulations and to spend more on further bailouts. □

Michelle Malkin

Creators Syndicate — All the world's a stage, wrote Shakespeare, and in the world of Washington, the curtains have opened on the most elaborate farce of the year. Welcome, taxpayers, to the Kabuki Theater of AIG Outrage — where D.C.'s histrionic enablers of taxpayer-funded corporate bailouts compete for Best Performance of Hypocritical Indignation. Over the weekend, cloaked in their finest populist costumes, the Beltway's hair-sprayed and powdered politicians and White House aides took to the airwaves to inveigh against \$165 million in employee retention payments made by the government-backed insurance giant. Those bennies were reportedly part of a larger \$450 million round of bonuses. After subpoenaing AIG, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo informed Congress that 73 employees in the very division responsible for the financial meltdown received bonuses of \$1 million or more — 11 of whom left the company after getting the cash to retain them.

The checks were mailed Friday, but the March 15 bonus deadline had been on the Capitol Hill radar screen since December — when Maryland Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings released a letter to AIG CEO Edward Liddy that noted: "Without taxpayer intervention, AIG would

have ceased to exist and, to be blunt, all of its employees would have lost their jobs. Against this background — and given the massive layoffs occurring at other major financial entities, such as Citibank — the American taxpayers have a right to know why senior executives at AIG, who are frankly lucky to still have jobs, need to receive additional bonus payments of any kind to retain them at AIG."

But it wasn't until last week that the hapless court jester of the Obama administration, Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, scrambled to rein in the payments. Liddy basically told him to buzz off. Geithner, the primary architect of the original \$85 billion AIG bailout last fall, "reluctantly" approved the bonuses anyway. And now his outraged boss has ordered him to scour every legal nook and cranny possible to get the money back.

Spare me President Obama's finger wag. He's "outraged"? Meh. Two weeks ago, Team

Obama forked over another \$30 billion for the basket-case company after it reported \$61.7 billion in fourth-quarter losses. That's on top of the first \$85 billion round and the second \$38 billion round under Bush — both of which Obama supported. (Obama, by the way, collected more than \$101,000 in AIG campaign contributions.) Don't talk to me about how the Obama administration opposes

rewarding failure. And don't talk to me about all the politicians stampeding to tax AIG's bonuses. Democratic Sen. Chris Dodd, the corporate crony who is the largest recipient of AIG donations, is now leading the charge to tax the retention payments in order to recoup the \$450 million the company is paying to employees in its financial products unit.

But Dodd, it turns out, was for protecting AIG's bonuses before he was against them.

Fox Business reporter Rich Edson pointed out that during the Senate porkulus negotiations last month, Dodd successfully inserted a teeny-tiny amendment that provided for an "exception for contractually obligated bonuses agreed on before Feb. 11, 2009," which exempts the very AIG bonuses Dodd and others are seeking to tax. Pay no attention to what his left hand was doing. Dodd's right fist is pounding mightily, mightily for the sake of the taxpayers.

The hypocritical indignation on the Hill is bipartisan. On his Twitter page last night, GOP Sen. John McCain huffed: "If we hadn't bailed out AIG = no bonuses for greedy execs." Well, if the GOP presidential candidate had held fast to his opposition to such doomed corporate bailouts in the first place, maybe bailout-palooza wouldn't have spiraled into the gazillion-dollar mess it inevitably became. □

Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.



ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

Q: Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?
A: How fresh would you be after a net caught fish frozen import from Asia?



Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



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"Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of "Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday.

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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

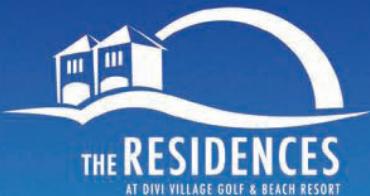
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On Top Of The News

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Thursday, March 19, 2009



With CodePink protesters in the background, AIG Chairman Edward Liddy waits to testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 18, 2009, before the House Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises subcommittee.

Associated Press

U.S. births break record; 40 pct out-of-wedlock

By MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — More babies were born in the United States in 2007 than any year in the nation's history — and a wedding ring made increasingly little difference in the matter.

The 4,317,119 births, reported by federal researchers Wednesday, topped a record first set in 1957 at the height of the baby boom.

Behind the number is both good and bad news. While it shows the U.S. population is more than replacing itself, a healthy trend, the teen birth rate was up for a second year in a row.

The birth rate rose slightly for women of all ages, and births to unwed mothers reached an all-time high of about 40 percent, continuing a trend that started years ago. More than three-quarters of these women were 20 or older.

For a variety of reasons, it's become more acceptable for women to have babies



Nadya Suleman, the mother of octuplets arrives Tuesday March 17, 2009 with two of the world's longest-surviving octuplets, from the hospital to her home in La Habra, Calif. The octuplets were born Jan. 26 in Southern California to 33-year-old Nadya Suleman, a divorced, unemployed mother who already had six children.

Associated Press

without a husband, said Duke University's S. Philip Morgan, a leading fertility researcher. Even happy couples may be living together without getting married, experts say. And more women — especially those in their 30s and 40s — are choosing to have children despite their single status. The new numbers suggest

the second year of a baby boomlet, with U.S. fertility rates higher in every racial group, the highest among Hispanic women. On average, a U.S. woman has 2.1 babies in her lifetime. That's the "magic number" required for a population to replace itself.

Continued on Page B3



New Mexico governor signs death penalty repeal

By DEBORAH BAKER

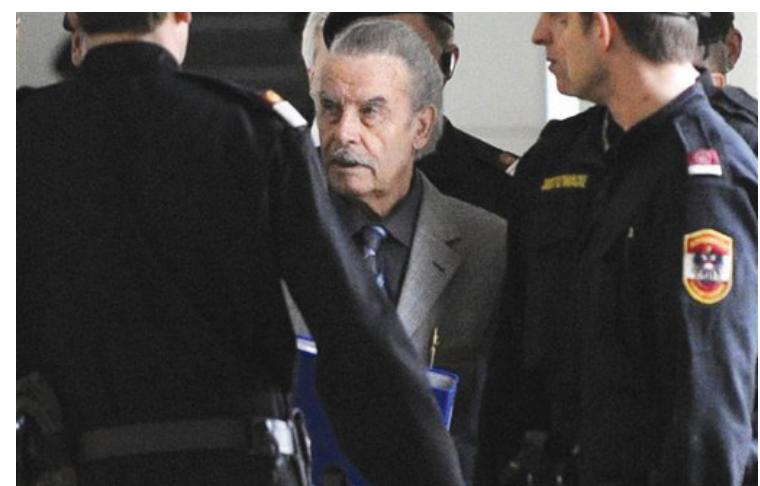
Associated Press Writer

SANTA FE, New Mexico (AP) — Gov. Bill Richardson signed legislation Wednesday to repeal New Mexico's death penalty, calling it the "most difficult decision in my political life."

The legislation replaces lethal injection with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Continued on Page B5

Incest father pleads guilty to charges, faces life



Defendant Josef Fritzl, center, is escorted during a break of the second day of his trial at the provincial courthouse in St. Poelten, Austria, on Tuesday March 17, 2009.

Associated Press

By VERONIKA OLEKSYN

Associated Press Writers

ST. POELTEN, Austria (AP) — Josef Fritzl abruptly pleaded guilty to all of the charges against him Wednesday — a surprising twist amid disclosures that the daughter he imprisoned for 24 years in a dungeon where she bore him seven children secretly sat in on the trial.

Adding intrigue to a case that has drawn worldwide attention, Fritzl calmly acknowledged his guilt, including to homicide, and said his change of heart came after hearing his daughter's heart-wrenching videotaped testimony.

"I declare myself guilty to the charges in the indictment," Fritzl, 73, told a panel of judges, referring to what he called "my sick behavior."

Continued on Page B6

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U.S. BIRTH

Continued from Page B1

Countries with much lower rates — such as Japan and Italy — face future labor shortages and eroding tax bases as they fail to reproduce enough to take care of their aging elders.

While the number of births in the U.S. reached nearly 4.3 million in 2006, mainly due to a larger population, especially a growing number of Hispanics, it's not clear the boomlet will last. Some experts think birth rates are already declining because of the economic recession that began in late 2007.

"I expect they'll go back down. The lowest birth rates recorded in the United States occurred during the Great Depression (of the 1930s) — and that was before modern contraception," said Dr. Carol Hogue, an Emory University professor of maternal and child health.

The 2007 statistical snapshot reflected a relatively good economy coupled with cultural trends that promoted childbirth, she and others noted.

Meanwhile, U.S. abortions dropped to their lowest levels in decades, according to other reports. Some have attributed the abortion decline to better use of contraceptives, but other experts have wondered if the rise in births might indicate a failure in proper use of contraceptives. Some earlier studies have shown declining availability of abortions.

The statistics are based on a review of most 2007 birth certificates by the National Center for Health Statistics, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The numbers also showed:

— Cesarean section deliveries continue to rise, now accounting for almost a third of all births. Health officials say that rate is much higher than

is medically necessary. About 34 percent of births to black women were by C-section, more than any other racial group. But geographically, the percentages were highest in Puerto Rico, at 49 percent, and New Jersey, at 38 percent.

— The pre-term birth rate, for infants delivered at less than 37 weeks of pregnancy, declined slightly. It had been generally increasing since the early 1980s. Experts said they aren't sure why it went down. CDC officials noted that despite the record number of births, this increase is different from occurred in the 1950s, when a much smaller population of women were having nearly four children each, on average. That baby boom quickly transformed society, affecting everything from school construction to consumer culture.

Today, U.S. women are averaging 2.1 children each. That's the highest level since the early 1970s, but is a relatively small increase from the rate it had hovered at for more than 10 years and is hardly transforming.

"It's the tiniest of baby booms," said Morgan in agreement. "This is not an earthquake; it's a slight tremor." □

U.S. sues UP railroad over fines for drugs on trains

By JOSH FUNK

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) — An ongoing dispute between Union Pacific Corp. and the federal government about restricting drug smuggling on the railroad's trains has spawned two more lawsuits over nearly \$38 million in fines that Union Pacific has refused to pay.

The fines against the railroad are related to roughly 40 incidents in which U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents found drugs stashed in railcars crossing the border between the U.S. and Mexico from November 2001 until October 2006.

The Justice Department said Wednesday that it has filed federal lawsuits in San Diego and Houston to force Union Pacific to pay the fines. The Omaha-based railroad filed its own lawsuit against the government last summer in Omaha asking a federal judge to set aside the fines.

"Union Pacific believes it has exceeded its legal obligation,

and will defend these duplicative lawsuits," railroad spokeswoman Donna Kush said Wednesday.

But Michael Hertz, acting assistant attorney general for civil cases, said the railroad should do more to ensure the safety of its cargo.

"It is imperative for transportation providers to be vigilant in determining the nature of cargo they bring into the United States from other countries," Hertz said in a statement.

Justice Department spokesman Charles Miller said he couldn't answer any questions about the government's lawsuits besides what was in the news release and complaints. Miller said he wasn't familiar with the railroad's existing lawsuit on the same issue. A federal judge has ordered the government to file a formal response to Union Pacific's lawsuit by midnight Friday.

The two lawsuits the government filed seek \$37.7 million in fines. Union

Pacific's lawsuit refers to \$37.8 million in fines. It was not immediately clear why the totals were different.

Marijuana accounts for nearly all the 4,514 pounds of drugs agents found in the incidents Union Pacific described in its lawsuit. Only one of the seizures involved cocaine. About 257 pounds of the drug was found in 2003.

Drugs were often found in false compartments on the railcars. Thirty-seven of the seizures took place at the Calexico, Calif., crossing. Four happened at Nogales, Arizona, and one seizure happened at Brownsville, Texas.

In its lawsuit, Union Pacific said it does not control the train cars until after they are inspected by customs agents, so it should not be held liable for what happens in Mexico. Most of the Mexican trains Union Pacific handles are controlled in Mexico by its shipping partner Ferrocarril Mexicano, which runs the Ferromex railroad. □

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Outrage over AIG lands on company, White House



President Barack Obama, accompanied by, from left, Economic Adviser Christina Romer, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, and Economic Adviser Lawrence Summers, walks from the Oval Office to the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, March 18, 2009, to make remarks on AIG, prior to departing for a trip to California.

By STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under intense grilling from lawmakers, the head of American International Group Inc. said some executives have voluntarily begun returning all

or part of bonuses that have outraged American taxpayers who spent billions bailing out the troubled insurance giant. Testifying under oath at a congressional hearing as angry as any in recent memory, Edward M. Liddy said he

understands the rage over executive bonuses and said some AIG executives already have stepped forward to give money back. Liddy, who is chairman and chief executive officer of AIG, told a House subcommittee

Associated Press

that the bonuses could be defended as a legal obligation of the company. But he also said that given the national uproar, he asked those who got "retention payments" over \$100,000 to return at least half of the money.

Also Wednesday, President Barack Obama said he will ask Congress to pass legislation giving the government greater regulatory authority over financial institutions like AIG. A top lawmaker also said the House of Representatives plans to take up a bill Thursday that would impose a 90 percent tax on bonuses paid to top-earning employees at AIG and other companies receiving big government bailouts.

Obama made his remarks while standing on the White House lawn before leaving for California. He again assailed AIG's business practices and the more than \$200 million in executive bonuses it paid out even as it was \$170 billion in debt to government bailouts. The financial bailout program remains politically unpopular and has been a drag on Obama's new presidency, even though the plan began

under Bush. The White House is well aware of the nation's bailout fatigue — anger that hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars have gone to prop up financial institutions that made poor decisions, while many others who have done no wrong have paid the price. Obama didn't create the situation, but said he ultimately was responsible for a solution. "The buck stops with me," he said.

He also disclosed that he and members of his economic council have started talks with leading lawmakers on legislation that would create a new regulatory entity — like the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. — to give the government more authority over financial institutions like AIG.

Obama said he was not trying to quell anger. "I think people have a right to be angry. I'm angry," he said.

The president also strongly defended Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who is under intense pressure for having failed to stop the bonus payments and agreeing with AIG that most of the money was paid under contractual obligations made during the administration of President George W. Bush, Obama's predecessor.

"He is making all the right moves in terms of playing a bad hand," Obama said, adding that it was up to the government and Congress to give the secretary the regulatory tools to work through the nation's current economic crisis and to make sure it is not repeated.

Rep. Charles Rangel, who chairs the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, said Wednesday that the House would vote on whether to raise the tax on bonuses for employees making more than \$250,000 at companies getting bailout money.

He said the \$5 billion threshold for companies to be covered would exclude community banks and other smaller companies that have received bailout money.

Congressional hearings, meanwhile, were producing angry words against AIG. □



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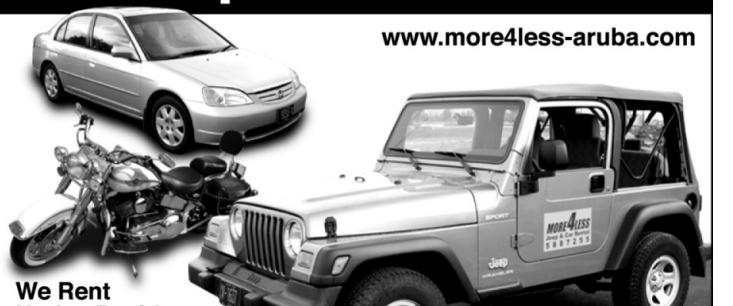
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Suspect in slaying of family of four dead in Utah

By MARLON A. WALKER

Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — A suspected opium trafficker wanted in the slaying of four North Carolina family members shot himself to death after a police chase in Utah, and investigators said Wednesday they believe the family killing was related to drug trafficking.

Authorities also said the surviving husband and father of the slain family may face charges of trafficking drugs, even if he is not implicated in the deaths of his wife and three children.

Authorities named the suspect as Chiew Chan Saevang, 37. They said he killed himself and his girlfriend, Yer Yang, 40, after sheriff's deputies spotted their BMW 325 and

gave chase late Tuesday on an interstate highway in Utah. The car crashed and caught fire and deputies who pulled them from the wreckage found them dead.

Investigators in North Carolina learned of the deaths as they prepared arrest warrants for Saevang for murder. He allegedly killed Lisa Saephan and her three children — 20-year-old Melanie, 18-year-old Pauline and 4-year-old Cody — at their home near Conover, North Carolina, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) northwest of Charlotte.

Investigators have said Lisa Saephan's husband and the children's father, Brian Tzeo, was at work when his family was killed. Saephan and Tzeo were natives of Laos who moved to the United States

years ago, Tzeo has told reporters.

On Wednesday, Chief Deputy Coy Reid from the Catawba County Sheriff's Office said no charges are expected against Tzeo in his family's deaths, but the investigation could lead to drug charges.

"The information we have suggests the father was a drug distributor," Reid said. "He has cooperated with us. And we're not at liberty to talk about that right now. It's an ongoing investigation."

Washington County, Utah, officials said the green BMW was spotted in Utah seven minutes after a national alert went out from North Carolina investigators, who had learned Saevang may have been driving through the state headed toward California.

NEW MEXICO

Continued from Page B1

"Faced with the reality that our system for imposing the death penalty can never be perfect, my conscience compels me to replace the death penalty with a solution that keeps society safe," the Democratic governor said at a news conference in the Capitol.

Richardson faced a deadline of midnight for making a decision on the bill that lawmakers sent him last week.

New Mexico is only the second state to ban executions since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976.

By signing the measure lawmakers sent him last week, New Mexico joins 14 other states that do not impose capital punishment.

And it will be only the second state to ban executions since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976. New Jersey was the first, in 2007.

New Mexico has executed one person since 1960, child killer Terry Clark in 2001.

Two men are currently on death row, Robert Fry of Farmington and Timothy Allen of Bloomfield. Their sentences will not be affected by the repeal.

Richardson said he has long believed — and still does — that the death penalty was a "just punishment" in rare cases for the worst crimes, but decided to sign the repeal legislation because of flaws in how the death penalty was applied.

He pointed out that DNA evidence has shown that innocent people have been placed on death row around the country.

"Regardless of my personal opinion about the death penalty, I do not have confidence in the criminal justice system as it currently operates to be the final arbiter when it comes to who lives and who dies for their crime," Richardson said. "If the state is going to

undertake this awesome responsibility, the system to impose this ultimate penalty must be perfect and can never be wrong."

In preparing for his decision, the governor solicited input over the weekend from state residents. According to his office, he got more than 9,000 responses by e-mail and in person.

"In a society which values individual life and liberty above all else, where justice and not vengeance is the singular guiding principle of our system of criminal law, the potential for wrongful conviction and, God forbid, execution of an innocent person stands as anathema to our very sensibilities as human beings," Richardson said in prepared remarks. "That is why I'm signing this bill into law." Among those urging the governor to sign the bill was the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Church officials lobbied hard for repeal.

Lt. Gov. Diane Denish said she delivered a handwritten note to the governor on Wednesday indicating her support for repeal. The New Mexico Sheriffs' and Police Association opposed repeal, saying capital punishment deters violence against police officers, jailers and prison guards. District attorneys also opposed the legislation, arguing that the death penalty was a useful prosecutorial tool.

"I'm worried for our law enforcement officers who are out there courageously doing their job every night. We've lost a layer of protection and it's a sad day in New Mexico," Bernalillo County Sheriff Darren White said after hearing the governor's decision.

New Mexico was one of several states considering repealing the death penalty this year.

In Kansas, a bill failed to clear the Senate this week. □



In an undated photo released by the Catawba County Sheriff's Office Wednesday, March 18, 2009, Chiew Chan Saevang is shown. Authorities said Saevang killed himself Tuesday, March 17, 2009, after a police chase in southwest Utah that ended with his crashed car in flames. Police say Saevang also killed his girlfriend, Yer Yang, who was with him in the vehicle. Saevang was an opium smuggler facing charges in the North Carolina slayings of a mother and her three children last week.

Associated Press

Washington County Sheriff Kirk Smith said Wednesday that the Utah medical examiner will determine the cause of death, likely in the next week or so.

Reid said Saevang had been living in Wisconsin, and Yang was from Long View, in Catawba County. The deaths leave many questions about the slayings unanswered. □

Investigators who searched the slain family's home last week seized a clear plastic bag containing a "suspected controlled substance." They also took away cash, computers, cell phones, a knife and a pistol. Tzeo declared bankruptcy last year, and his wife had a bankruptcy petition pending this year. □



Afghan leader warns against international meddling



NATO Secretary General Japp de Hoop Scheffer, left, looks on as Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during a joint press conference at Presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, March 18, 2009. Karzai warned the international community Wednesday to stay clear of getting involved in governance within Afghanistan, as the country prepares to go to the polls to elect a new president later this year.

By FISNIK ABRASHI
Associated Press Writer

KABUL (AP) — Afghan President Hamid Karzai has insisted his country will never be “a puppet state” and urged the international community against meddling in Afghan politics in the run-up to a presidential election later this year.

Karzai faces an election in

August, at a time when the country is embroiled in a vicious Taliban-led insurgency and the performance of his government has been criticized by President Barack Obama’s administration and other Western capitals as inefficient and corrupt.

NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said Wednesday that the alliance

needs four more battalions in addition to nearly 60,000 troops already in the country to provide security for the August election. A battalion normally includes 750 to 850 soldiers.

Speaking alongside de Hoop Scheffer, Karzai told a news conference in Kabul that his government’s foreign partners should respect and honor his

Continued from Page B1

Fritzl was charged with negligent homicide in the death of an infant boy as well as enslavement, rape, incest, forced imprisonment and coercion. Initially he pleaded guilty to incest and forced imprisonment, and partially guilty to rape and coercion. The change means he could face up to life in prison for the homicide charge.

Legal experts say the eight-member jury will still have to deliver verdicts despite Fritzl’s guilty pleas, although his confessions could be grounds for a lesser sentence. Verdicts and sentences were expected Thursday after closing statements.

Fritzl’s daughter Elisabeth was the prosecution’s key witness. Now 42, she was 18 when he imprisoned her in the squalid, windowless cell he built beneath the family’s home in the town of Amstetten, where he raped her for years, sometimes in front of the children.

Asked by the judge what led him to change his mind,

Fritzl said it was Elisabeth’s testimony. Fritzl, jurors and others in court viewed 11 hours of her videotaped statement during closed-door sessions Monday and Tuesday, but officials were not allowed to provide details.

Fritzl’s lawyer, Rudolf Mayer, said his client asked to see a psychiatrist after Tuesday’s court hearing.

“It must really have shaken him up,” he said of Elisabeth’s testimony.

However, a person familiar with the trial told The Associated Press that Elisabeth herself was in court on both days, when the public and media were excluded — suggesting her presence might have unnerved Fritzl and prompted him to change his pleas. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because discussion of the closed proceedings was not authorized.

Before the trial, prosecutors had said Elisabeth would not be present. Court spokesman Franz Cutka said Elisabeth was not in court Wednesday and declined to comment.

further. The homicide charge came for the death of a 2-day-old twin boy — Michael — born to Elisabeth in April 1996 who prosecutors say might have survived with proper medical care had he and his mother not been locked in the basement. Elisabeth and her six surviving children, who range in age from 6 to 20, have spent months recovering in a psychiatric clinic and at a secret location. Prosecutors have described her as a “broken” woman.

Psychiatrist Adelheid Kastner told the court Wednesday that Fritzl has a serious personality disorder and would pose a threat to others if freed. She recommended that Fritzl serve his sentence in a special prison for psychologically deranged criminals or a ward for abnormal criminals in a regular jail.

Kastner told Austrian television Wednesday evening that she believes Fritzl is a suicide risk and should be monitored.

“For sure, he has reached the moment when the whole

country’s independence. Karzai said he appreciated the work that the U.S. and other members of the international community have done to fight terrorism and rebuild the country. But, without singling out any nation, he accused some of proposing to weaken the central government.

“The issue of governance and the creation of (a mechanism for) good governance is the work of the Afghan people,” Karzai said. “Afghanistan ... will never be a puppet state.” Karzai was responding to a question from an Afghan journalist who suggested international forces operating in the provinces were trying to directly support local leaders there.

Zalmay Khalilzad, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Afghanistan and Iraq, recently told The New York Times that he had warned the Obama administration against any attempts to focus on local areas at the expense of the central government.

“Some will regard it as an effort to break up the Afghan

state, which would be regarded as hostile policy,” Khalilzad, who is an Afghan-American, told the newspaper in January.

As the new U.S. administration shifts the focus from the Iraq war to Afghanistan, Obama has ordered a review of America’s strategy in the region. The results of the review are expected later this month.

Obama has also ordered thousands of new troops to the country’s south — the Taliban’s heartland — this year in response to a deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, and his administration has urged other NATO allies to do more.

To succeed, Karzai said, the international community needed the support of all Afghans.

“With Afghanistan there should be respect and honor, and we will also respect and honor our allies,” Karzai said. “Afghanistan now is the owner of its land and nobody can disrupt our country.” □



Journalists and visitors, seen, in front of the entrance to the country court, in St. Poelten, Austria, Wednesday, March 18, 2009. The trial against Josef Fritzl who is accused of imprisoning his daughter for 24 years and fathering seven children with her in a windowless cell, continued on Wednesday. In a stunning turn of events he pleaded guilty Wednesday to all charges against him, including negligent homicide, after hearing his daughter’s heart-wrenching testimony. Headline on paper reads “The monster shows his face”.

Associated Press

house of cards has collapsed,” she said.

Fritzl expressed regret that he didn’t bring the ailing infant out of the cellar and get medical help.

“I don’t know why I didn’t help,” he said. “I just overlooked it.

I thought the little one would

survive.”

“I should have recognized that the baby was doing poorly,” he added.

Fritzl’s lawyer had previously claimed his client only saw the newborn once he was already dead; Fritzl told investigators he burned the body in a furnace. □

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Mexican tariffs on 90 U.S. products begin Thursday

By E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — U.S. exports ranging from fruits and vegetables to toilet paper and deodorant will be subject to Mexican tariffs of 10 to 20 percent beginning Thursday in retaliation for the Obama administration's cancellation of a cross-border trucking program. The list published Wednesday by the Mexican government affects about \$2.4 billion in annual trade and 90 U.S. products, including many fresh fruits and vegetables, and products from sunglasses to toothpaste. The tariffs will take effect Thursday, according to a decree published in the federal register.

Economy Secretary Gerardo Ruiz Mateos announced the tariffs in response to the U.S. closure of a pilot program that allowed some Mexican trucks to transport goods deep into the United States. That program was a step toward complying with a requirement of the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement that Mexican trucks gain full access to U.S. highways by January

2000.

Ruiz Mateos called it "wrong, protectionist and a clear violation of the treaty."

Wednesday's decree described the cancellation as "evidence that the United States and Mexico have not been able to reach a mutually satisfying solution in the controversy over cross-border transport."

The Teamsters union, consumer groups and independent insurers pressured Congress to keep the trucks off U.S. roadways, citing safety concerns. But some of the strongest opposition has come from unions concerned about U.S. drivers losing jobs and work to lower-paid Mexican drivers.

The trucking program, begun in 2007, allowed a few Mexican trucks beyond a border buffer zone. It died last week when President Barack Obama signed a sweeping government bill that barred spending on it. The administration says Obama has asked the office of the U.S. Trade Representative to work with the Department of



Trucks drive into the Mexican transport custom in Otay, prior to crossing to the United States in Tijuana, Mexico, Tuesday, March 17, 2009. Mexico said Monday it will increase tariffs on about 90 U.S. products in retaliation for last week's decision to end a pilot program that allowed some Mexican trucks to transport goods in the United States.

Associated Press

Transportation, State Department and Congress to create a new program.

Activists and industry associations in the United States had argued that Mexican trucks are unsafe. The Mexican government says there is no basis for such concerns, noting there were 46,000 crossings during the pilot program without any

significant incidents.

The trucking program is one of the last and largest NAFTA disputes between the U.S. and Mexico.

In 2001, Mexico brought the case before a dispute-resolution panel, which recommended that the United States allow Mexican trucks within its borders.

"There's a growing concern

about the hypocrisy of trade policy where we (the United States) say, 'Do as we say, not as we do,'" said Kevin Gallagher, an economist and international relations professor at Boston University who has written three books on NAFTA. "I think countries are getting a little fed up with that double standard." □

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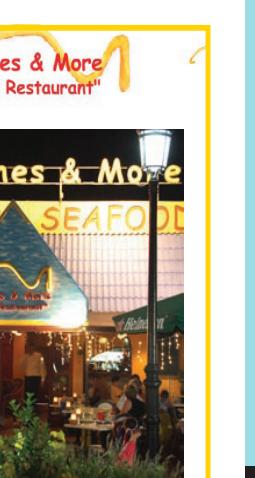
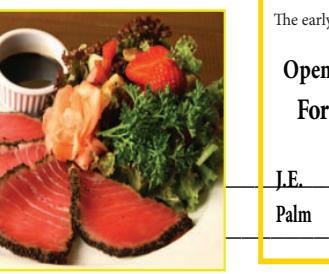
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dining room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These



specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. Fishes and More is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. For those who like to try something different or have had their fill of spectacular seafood, the chef prepares a wonderful array of filet mignon, rib eye, wiener schnitzel, veal parmesan, and pasta specialties. Great Seafood!!! Fun and relaxed atmosphere. Right across from the high rise hotels. It is worth the short walk to a wonderful dinner □



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Lance Mackey wins third consecutive Iditarod



Lance Mackey sits with his lead dogs Larry, right, and Maple after crossing the finish line of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, in Nome, Alaska, to win his third Iditarod in a row.

By MARY PEMBERTON

Associated Press Writer

NOME, Alaska (AP) — Lance Mackey won the 1,100-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race for the third consecutive year on Wednesday.

The musher from Fairbanks slapped hands with fans along Nome's Front Street and was mobbed by family members after crossing under the city's famed burled arch at 11:38 a.m., hours ahead of his nearest competitors.

Immediately after winning, he gave treats to his dogs, calling them the "real heroes."

"This never gets old," he said at the finish line as he hugged two of his dogs.

"It's pretty awesome. Pretty cool."

Alaska Governor Sarah Palin congratulated Mackey by phone.

"We are so proud of you, Lance, and we're considering this the greatest team in Iditarod history," Palin said. She also told the 38-year-old Mackey, a throat cancer survivor, "You continue to give all of us hope, the adversity that you have overcome, the challenges you've met, believe me, it resonates across our nation

and across our world."

Mackey commended his "little superstar Maple," a 3-year-old female who was in

the lead for much of the last part of the race. He hauled her and 9-year-old Larry, one of his traditional lead dogs, onto the stage with him.

Mackey became the third musher in the race's 37-year history to win in three consecutive years, joining Susan Butcher (1986-88) and Doug Swingley (1999-01). He finished about six hours ahead of the second- and third-place mushers, Sebastian Schnuelle of Canada and John Baker.

He increased his lead along the wind-swept western coast of Alaska. Fierce, biting winds blew in off the Bering Sea, forcing temperatures to 50 below zero. Many mushers waited out the storm in checkpoints.

In Mackey's two previous

victories, he headed into the Iditarod about two weeks after winning the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race, considered a tougher race.

He didn't run the Yukon Quest this year, choosing instead to train an Alaska Native musher for the Iditarod.

Sixty-seven teams began the race more than a week ago in Willow, about 50 miles north of Anchorage. Ten teams have scratched or been withdrawn. Three dogs have died in this year's race. Two dogs were on the team of rookie Lou Packer, who scratched after he was found on Monday 22 miles past the Iditarod checkpoint by searchers in a plane. He told the Anchorage Daily News he believes the two dogs froze to death in the high winds.

With the win, Mackey received \$69,000 and a new truck. After giving the truck from the 2007 victory to his wife and trading in last year's for a sports car, he said he's keeping the apple-red truck.

The prize money's nice, too.

"First round's on me," he jokingly told the hundreds of people who lined three-deep along Front Street. It was brilliantly sunny for the noontime finish, but temperatures hovered at 15 below zero (26 below zero C). After what Mackey went through this year in getting his team through a brutal wind storm, spectator Terry Dillon said Mackey was the epitome of the Iron Man.

"Iron Man or crazy, either one or both," he said. "Just a good old Alaska guy." □

Federer, Murray into Indian Wells quarters

Federer said he felt he finally was able to establish some rhythm in his game after playing mostly serve-and-return against his first two opponents.

"Today was a bit more baseline, even though I couldn't find his (Gonzalez's) backhand," Federer said. "If you don't find his backhand, the point is over quickly. He has such a massive forehand."

"I'm looking forward to playing against Verdasco. It's a good thing that I'm still in the tournament and facing an opponent who actually is going to extend the rallies a little bit."

The 10th-seeded Verdasco won his fourth-round match against unseeded Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Federer has a 2-0 record against Verdasco, although both wins were on clay.

Verdasco helped Spain win the Davis Cup final last year and reached his first Grand Slam semifinals at the Australian Open. Until now, he'd never passed the third round at Indian Wells. World No. 4 Murray progressed when old nemesis Tommy Robredo retired with an injured right wrist.

Murray was leading 6-2, 3-0 after 50 minutes when Robredo was too hurt to continue.

He said he was aware Robredo had a problem with his wrist, although he still seemed to be hitting the ball OK.

"But mentally, a wrist problem can be tough," Murray said. "I know because I've been through it. It's just the pain that's there and feeling like something might happen."

The Brit had expected a tough match because Robredo had won both previous encounters, and both players had won two titles already this year. □



Andy Murray, of Britain, returns the ball against Tommy Robredo during a match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, Calif., Wednesday, March 18, 2009.

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Roger Federer saw off Fernando Gonzalez 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 in the BNP Paribas Open on Wednesday to set up a quarterfinal with another Fernando — Verdasco. Meanwhile, defending champion Novak Djokovic and fourth-seeded Andy Murray also advanced.

Federer's 12th win in 13 matches against Gonzalez kept him on track in his bid to become the first man to win four times at Indian Wells. Second-seeded Federer won the title from 2004 to 2006, joining Americans Jimmy Connors and Michael Chang as the only three-time champs.

Gonzalez fought his way back into the match in the second set, overcoming earlier frustration he had vented by slamming a racket onto the court — three times — and shattering it. He earned the first break against Federer this week, but the Swiss star broke in the last set for a 2-1 lead and again for 5-2.

NHL Roundup

Brodeur sets NHL record as Devils beat Blackhawks

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Martin Brodeur posted his 552nd win and passed childhood idol and Hall of Famer Patrick Roy for the most career victories in league history when he made 30 saves in the New Jersey Devils' 3-2 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Tuesday. The victory came in Brodeur's 987th game of a 15-year career played entirely with the Devils.

During that tenure, the likable Brodeur has led the Devils to three Stanley Cup titles and won the Vezina Trophy four times as the league's top goalie.

Brodeur is within four shutouts of passing Terry Sawchuk (103) for the league record, and at 36 he has a chance to push his win total well beyond 600.

Capitals 3, Panthers 0
At Sunrise, Florida, Jose Theodore made 19 saves in his second shutout of the season as Washington blanked Florida.

Brooks Laich and Viktor Kozlov scored for Washington, which earned its fourth win in five games. Mike Green added an empty-net goal with 1:27 left, and John Erskine had two assists.

Florida dropped a fourth straight game for the first time since late December. The Panthers hadn't lost two consecutive home games since January.

Red Wings 3, Flyers 2
At Detroit, Johan Franzen and Henrik Zetterberg scored 1:32 apart in the third period to wipe out a one-goal deficit and give Detroit a win over Philadelphia.

Pavel Datsyuk had a goal and an assist, and Franzen also had an assist for Detroit, which hasn't lost to Philadelphia at home since Nov. 4, 1988 (14-0-2). Chris Osgood made 24 saves.

Scott Hartnell had a goal and an assist, and Joffrey Lupul also scored for Philadelphia. Martin Biron stopped 45

shots.

Penguins 6, Thrashers 2
At Pittsburgh, NHL scoring-leader Evgeni Malkin tied a career-high with five points to surpass 100 for the second consecutive season as Pittsburgh downed Atlanta. Malkin, who missed practice Monday due to illness, had two goals and three assists to give him 102 points this season. He extended his lead in the scoring race over teammate Sidney Crosby to 10 points. Sergei Gonchar had a goal and three assists and Kris Letang and Crosby had two assists each for Pittsburgh.

In other NHL games it was Vancouver 4, Dallas 2; Phoenix 4, San Jose 3; Edmonton 2, St. Louis 1 (SO); Ottawa 4, Sabres 2; Minnesota 3, Colorado 2 (SO); Toronto 4, Tampa Bay 3; NY Rangers 4, Montreal 3 (SO); Penguins 6, Atlanta 2; Detroit 3, Philadelphia 2; and Washington 3, Florida □



New Jersey Devils goalie Martin Brodeur folds up the goal net that he cut down after the Devils beat the Chicago Blackhawks 3-2 in an NHL hockey game Tuesday, March 17, 2009, in Newark, N.J. The win gave Brodeur the record for most career wins by a goalie at 552.

Associated Press

NBA Roundup

Cavaliers edge Magic 97-93

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James made a long 3-pointer with 47.4 seconds left and added two free throws with 8.7 seconds to go as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Orlando Magic 97-93 on Tuesday.

With Cleveland trailing 93-92 in a game soaked in playoff intensity, James, wearing green and white Nikes to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, pulled up in front of Orlando's bench and coldly knocked down his 3. Magic center Dwight Howard was called for a 3-second violation on Orlando's next trip, giving the ball back to Cleveland.

James was then fouled while shooting and made his two free throws as the crowd serenaded him with chants of "MVP."

Rashard Lewis missed a 3-pointer with 2.5 seconds left for the Magic, who came in with the Eastern Conference's best road record.

76ers 94, Lakers 93

At Los Angeles, Andre Iguodala scored 25 points, including a buzzer-beating 3-pointer as Philadelphia overcame a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Los Angeles.

The Sixers were trailing 78-67 when interim coach Tony DiLeo put little-used forward Donyell Marshall into the game for the first time. The 14-year veteran drained a 3-pointer 19 seconds later, igniting a 20-2 blitz.

Still, the Lakers led 93-91 when Andre Miller inbounded to Iguodala, who was covered loosely by

Ariza before connecting from the top of the key.

Hawks 119, Kings 97

At Atlanta, Al Horford had 23 points and 12 rebounds, and Josh Smith finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds as Atlanta downed Sacramento for its sixth straight victory.

The Hawks are 40 wins against 28 losses overall, their highest win total since 1997-98. They moved three games ahead of fifth-place Miami in the Eastern Conference standings.

Kevin Martin scored 31 for Sacramento, which stretched its losing streak to four games overall and on the road.

Mavericks 103, Pistons 101

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks finally took advantage of an injury-depleted team, leading the Detroit Pistons from start to finish. The Mavs won their eighth straight at home.

Richard Hamilton was a late scratch for Detroit because of an aggravated groin problem. With Rasheed Wallace (calf) and Allen Iverson (back) also out, the Pistons were missing a combined average of 48.5 points per game, and were out of whack from the start.

Nowitzki scored 30 points, Jason Terry had 18 and Dampier tied his season high with 16 points, and had 13 rebounds.

Spurs 93, Timberwolves 86

At San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 24 points to once again carry San Antonio against Minnesota

Giving All-Star forward Tim Duncan the night off, the Spurs pushed their lead over Houston to two games for



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) is fouled by Orlando Magic's Courtney Lee (11) late in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 17, 2009, in Cleveland. James scored 43 points in the Cavaliers' 97-93 win.

Associated Press

the No. 2 seed in the West. They did so behind Parker, who averaged 33 points in four wins over the Timberwolves this season.

Sebastian Telfair and Kevin Love had 17 points apiece for Minnesota. □

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United States' David Wright, second from right, is mobbed by Derek Jeter, right, and other teammates after hitting a two-run single in the ninth inning to defeat Puerto Rico 6-5 during a World Baseball Classic game in Miami, Tuesday, March 17, 2009.

Associated Press

U.S. rallies to beat Puerto Rico 6-5 in WBC

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — David Wright sliced a two-run single that capped a three-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning Tuesday as the injury-plagued Americans qualified for this weekend's World Baseball Classic semifinals with a 6-5 win over Puerto Rico.

Wright's hit with one out eliminated Puerto Rico from the tournament. The Americans advanced to the next round at Dodger Stadium.

The U.S. victory made up for Saturday's embarrassing 11-1 loss to Puerto Rico that ended in the seventh inning due to the 10-run mercy rule.

"Getting a crack at a team that embarrassed us a few days earlier, to have the resiliency to bounce back in the ninth and steal one from them was pretty big," Wright said.

Trailing 5-3, the United States began its rally when Shane Victorino and Brian Roberts singled to the start the ninth inning against J.C. Romero (1-1). Derek Jeter flied out, Roberts stole second and Jimmy Rollins walked on a 3-2 pitch.

Fernando Cabrera came on to pitch, and he walked Kevin Youkilis to force in a run.

Wright then send a shot just inside the right-field line, raising his fist when the ball dropped in. The New York Mets star was mobbed by teammates near second base after two runs scored. The vital hit came after the Americans stranded seven runners in scoring position in the first eight innings.

"We're taking this very seriously," Wright said. "This isn't an exhibition to us."

The United States will play Venezuela in Miami's final game of round two Wednesday to determine seedings for the semis.

The Americans will advance despite a recent wave of injuries that has sidelined infielders Dustin Pedroia and Chipper Jones and reliever Matt Lindstrom for the rest of the tournament. Left fielder Ryan Braun was also unavailable Tuesday with a sore right side, but he hopes to return this weekend.

Alex Rios homered and then singled home the go-ahead run in the sixth for the Puerto Ricans. They totaled only five hits, but three walks led to runs, and U.S. starter Ted Lilly gave up three runs on two homers.

Carlos Delgado hit a two-run homer for the Puerto Ricans, and they broke a 3-all tie in the sixth. Ivan Rodriguez led off with his third walk, took second on a surprise sacrifice by Carlos Beltran and scored on Rios' single.

Ramon Vazquez singled home the Puerto Ricans' final run in the ninth. Youkilis homered for Team USA. □

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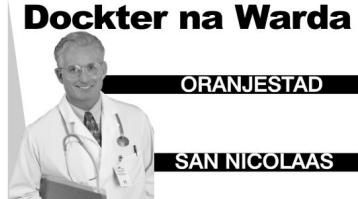
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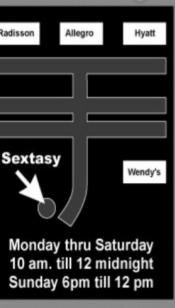


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Perú adelantará argumento a La Haya por límite Chile

LIMA (Reuters) - Perú presentará el jueves los argumentos de su demanda de límites marítimos con Chile ante la Corte Internacional de La Haya para respaldar su pedido de que se reconozcan "sus derechos soberanos" sobre el mar, en otro capítulo de unas relaciones con altibajos entre ambos países. El Gobierno de Lima presentó en enero del 2008 su demanda ante la corte internacional de justicia en busca de zanjar un histórico diferendo de límites marítimos con Chile y tiene plazo hasta el viernes 20 de marzo para dar sus alegatos. El canciller peruano, José Antonio García Belaunde, afirmó a periodistas que el documento jurídico será presentado por el representante del Gobierno en la corte, el embajador Allan Wagner.

"Perú ha solicitado que la Corte determine el límite marítimo entre ambos países sobre la base de los principios y las normas de la costumbre internacional", dijo el miércoles García Belaunde en declaraciones en el patio de Palacio de Gobierno, tras una reunión del gabinete peruano. Chile considera que no tiene temas limítrofes pendientes con Perú y que la frontera común es una línea paralela sobre las ricas aguas del

oceano Pacífico, lo que para Santiago fue ratificado en tratados suscritos en 1952 y 1954.

Perú afirma, en cambio, que esos acuerdos sólo fueron convenios para fijar la actividad pesquera en la frontera y reclama que el límite marítimo debería considerar una línea equidistante entre ambos países.

El canciller peruano dijo que la materia de controversia jurídica bilateral se refiere a la delimitación de los espacios marítimos de ambos países, a partir del punto en que la frontera terrestre entre Perú y Chile llega al mar.

"Esto es el punto denominado Concordia, de conformidad con el tratado de Lima de 1929", refirió el funcionario. Para Chile, el límite en el mar comienza a unos 264,5 metros tierra adentro, en el Hito número uno, de acuerdo con otros convenios firmados en la década de 1950.

CHILE A LA EXPECTATIVA García Belaunde afirmó que, de conformidad con las normas internacionales, corresponde para el trazado de la frontera marítima "una línea equidistante a partir de las costas de ambos países, para lograr una solución de equidad ante la ausencia de circunstancias especiales en el área".

"El Perú ha solicitado también que la Corte reconozca los derechos soberanos exclusivos que el Perú posee sobre el área de mar peruano que se extiende más allá de 200 millas del territorio de Chile y que este país considera alta mar", dijo.

Luego de la presentación de los argumentos peruanos, Chile tiene plazo de tres meses para replicar la posición de Lima. Perú prevé que el tribunal de La Haya daría su sentencia a fines del Gobierno del presidente Alan García, en el 2011, o a comienzos de la próxima administración. □



Imagen de archivo del presidente peruano, Alan García, en una conferencia de prensa en Lima, 27 nov 2008. REUTERS/Mariana Bazo

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